

Wilurrara Tjutaku Football League

"Everyone in the West"

THE WILURRARA TJUTAKU FOOTBALL LEAGUE (WTFL) WAS SET UP SO REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PEOPLE IN THE SOUTHERN N.T. COULD PLAY AND WATCH AFL GAMES IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITIES INSTEAD OF HAVING TO TRAVEL INTO TOWN.



PAPUNYA PLAYING YUENDUMU AT PAPUNYA SPORTS WEEKEND IN THE EARLY 1980'S.



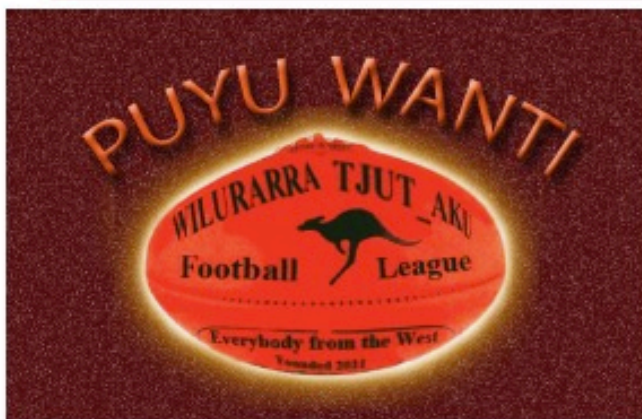
THIS IS THE MIGHTY PAPUNYA EAGLES IN THE 1980'S

COMING INTO ALICE SPRINGS TO PLAY AND WATCH FOOTBALL IS EXPENSIVE AND DANGEROUS FOR REMOTE COMMUNITY MOB. IT'S HARD TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY, CARS AND ROADS ARE IN POOR CONDITION, FUEL COSTS ARE HIGH, AND DISTANCES ARE BIG. LOTS OF PEOPLE GET STUCK IN TOWN. THERE'S TOO MUCH GROG IN TOWN. TOO MANY PEOPLE END UP IN HOSPITAL, IN CUSTODY, AT COURT, AND IN JAIL.

AFL HAS BEEN PLAYED IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES SINCE THE COMMUNITY SCRATCH MATCHES OF THE EARLY 1960'S, AND HAS A FAST AND UNIQUE STYLE OF PLAY. STYLE, SKILL, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WINNING, THOUGH WINNING IS ALWAYS WELCOME!



THE PAPUNYA EAGLES IN THE 80'S. THAT'S SID ANDERSON SECOND FROM THE LEFT IN THE BACK ROW. SID HAS BEEN THE COACH FOR PAPUNYA AFL TEAMS FOR MANY YEARS, AND IS A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE WTFL.



PUYU WANTI ("NO SMOKING") WAS SET UP AS A SUMMERTIME COMMUNITY AFL COMP IN 2007 WITH A SMALL GRANT FROM THE ANTI-SMOKING PROGRAM OF NT HEALTH. THIS WAS THE ONLY GRANT THEY EVER GOT.

PETROL SNIFFING HAD BEEN A BIG PROBLEM IN WESTERN DESERT COMMUNITIES FOR MANY YEARS, AND WHEN OPAL LOW AROMATIC FUEL WAS ROLLED OUT ACROSS THE REGION, SID AND OTHER COMMUNITY ELDERS KNEW THAT THE YOUNG MEN HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO INSTEAD OF SNIFFING.

SUMMER WAS THE SUICIDE SEASON, AND THEY HAD LOST SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY.



THE MEDALS AND TROPHIES FOR PUYU WANTI WERE ALL NAMED AFTER LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOTBALL HEROES, A TRADITION THAT THE WTFL HAS CONTINUED.



WANGA WALTJAI!
The future of bush footy?

SID WENT TO MELBOURNE TO DO A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE WTFL AT THE "WELLBEING NOT WINNING" CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER OF 2013. THEN THEY WENT TO THE AFL GRAND FINAL WITH SOME HAWKS SUPPORTERS. THE HAWKS WON.



PUYU WANTI WAS THE BEGINNING OF WHAT HAS BECOME THE WILURRARA TJUTAKU FOOTBALL LEAGUE - THE WTFL.



THE WTFL OFFICIALLY STARTED UP IN THE SUMMER OF 2012/13 WITH WESTERN DESERT COMMUNITY TEAMS FROM IKUNTJI, PAPUNYA, KINTORE, MOUNT LIEBIG, ANTJALKATJARRA, NYIRRIPI AND KIWIRRKURRA.

THE SEASON STARTED OFF WITH A WTFL LIGHTNING CARNIVAL IN PAPUNYA. THE PIKILYI BOMBERS WON.



JAY JAY CALLS THE GAME



KINTORE HAWKS AND PIKILYI BOMBERS PLAY



HALF-TIME STRATEGY



KINTORE HAWKS WATCH AND WAIT



PAPUNYA EAGLES



THE KIDS PLAYED THEIR OWN GRAND FINAL



EVERYONE LOVES FOOTBALL OUT BUSH. IT'S SAFER FOR PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS, MORE FUN, AND THERE ARE A LOT MORE WINNERS!

THE 2013 WTFL GRAND FINAL



JJ AND SID PRESENT THE MEDALS AND TROPHIES



PAPUNYA EAGLES WON!